THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The number of handicapped persons, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in Andhra Pradesh as on 31-12-92 was 42591.

(b) The number of handicapped persons placed in jobs by the employment exchanges in Andhra Pradesh during 1991 and 1992 was 235 and 295 respectively.

(c) and (d) Statistics regarding vacancies filled up against the reserved quota is not available. However, a Special Employment Exchange at Hyderabad has been functioning to cater to the needs of the handicapped and assist them in getting suitable employment. Special Cells for the handicapped have also been opened at Employment Exchanges at Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. Three Special Recruitment Drives have been conducted to fill up the backlog of Group 'C' & 'D' vacancies reserved for handicapped in respect of Central Ministries, Central Public Sector Undertakings, and Banks, etc.

Harassment of Indian Labour in Kuwait

2500. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN :
SHRI J. S. RAJU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight and harassment of Indian Labour in Kuwait;

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken to put a halt to the harassment of the Labour Community;

(c) whether it is a fact that the women folk who are taken for household work are raped in large number and deported;

(d) what is the total number of women folk who went to Kuwait between 1991 to January 1993 for domestic labour and how many have been back to India after much harassment and ignominy;

(e) whether Government registered their protest on behalf of these poor labour women; and

(f) if so, what concrete action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The Indian Mission in Kuwait from time to time receive complaints of maltreatment, under-payment, substitution of contracts, unsatisfactory living and working conditions etc., though the number of complaints is not large. Whenever approached, the Missions render every possible assistance to the aggrieved workers and contact sponsors for redressal of their grievances. In many cases, the Missions provide shelter to the maids before they can find any other appointment. If destitute, the Missions also repatriate them to India at, Government's expense.

(d) No precise information with regard to the women folk who went to Kuwait from January 1991 to January 1993 is available. The number of Indian women folk working in Kuwait may be assumed to be approximately 35,000.

(e) and (f) The Government is conscious of the need to look after the welfare of Indians working in Kuwait. Bilateral consultations are held from time to time and the welfare of Indian labour women is also discussed through such meetings.

Central Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour

2501. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Centrally sponsored scheme for the rehabilitation of bonded labour was launched with effect from 30-5-1978; and

(b) if so, the total number of labourers released from bondage so far under the Scheme alongwith the percentage of SC & ST amongst them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Scheme provides for Central Assistance to State Governments on matching basis for rehabilitation of bonded labour. According to the latest reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labourers identified and freed as on 31-3-93 was 2,51,424. Separate statistics for the Bonded Labourers belonging to SC/ST category is not maintained.

Provision of PF Slips to Subscribers

2502. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :
SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is mandatory to provide PF